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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable NORM COLEMAN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Father Richard S. Dalton, of Christ Our King Mission Church, Rochester, MI.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Mighty God,

We thank You for the gifts You have bestowed on our Nation: the gift of freedom, the gift of plenty, the gift of community, and the countless gifts of beauty You have given this land.

Awaken this land and its people to our accountability before You and our responsibilities to one another. Make us aware of both the gifts and stewardship granted to us, that each person in this Nation will discover their gifts and embrace their callings for our common benefit and to Your glory.

Lord, may Your grace and kindness abide with this Senate, the Senate staffs, and each related family. We pray Your protection and blessing on the mothers, fathers, grandparents, children and all, both young and old, associated with this United States Senate.

May Your care be upon all these gathered and may this Senate body labor during these days as Your ministers for our good.

I pray these things, as Your servant for Jesus' sake.

God may You now bless these Senators, Thy servants.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable NORM COLEMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 24, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable NORM COLEMAN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COLEMAN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Senate will immediately resume consideration of S. 1, the prescription drug benefits and Medicare bill. There are approximately 33 pending amendments from last week and yesterday. We continue to make good progress. Under the order from last night, we have two consecutive votes this morning at 11 o'clock on the Rockefeller amendment No. 976 and the Bingaman amendment No. 984. Also, last night we reached an agreement to vote at 2:25 this afternoon in relation to the Dodd amendment No. 969 on open enrollments. This morning, the two managers will be working through the pending amend-

ments and will attempt to set up additional votes for this afternoon.

I reiterate once again we will finish this bill this week, possibly Thursday night. It could be a very late Thursday night. I predict it will be a late night tonight, Tuesday night, Wednesday night, and Thursday night. If we spill over to Friday or even Saturday, we will finish this bill before the recess. I do encourage Members to come forward with their amendments as soon as possible and make those available to the managers if you plan on offering those amendments. We have a lot of work to do. The cooperation of Members will be very much appreciated over the next 2, 3 days.

PASSAGE OF S. 1157 AND S. 239

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, let me just make one final comment. In wrapup last night, we had two very important pieces of legislation pass through the body. We are debating throughout each day the prescription drug benefits and Medicare bill, yet we have other important matters.

Last night, we passed S. 1157, which establishes a National Museum of African American History. Senator BROWNBACK has been working on getting this bill cleared for full Senate action since its introduction on May 23 of this year. I publicly thank him for his efforts and attention on this important issue so that the Senate was able to pass it expeditiously.

Also last night, the Senate passed S. 239, the Trauma Care Systems Planning And Development Act, which I introduced in January of this year. This bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to collect, compile, and disseminate information regarding trauma care and emergency medical services, and, in so doing, takes into special consideration people in rural areas who might not otherwise have access to that care.

I mention those two very important pieces of legislation because I want our

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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